

Message from the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon

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It is with great pleasure that I wish to contribute a message at the occasion of the passing out of the 25th batch of Graduate Chemists of the College of Chemical Sciences of the Institute of Chemistry.

The Institute has successfully conducted the Graduateship in Chemistry

programme for a period of 25 years and continues to do so contributing towards the national efforts on tertiary education in chemistry. It is the single largest provider of Graduate Chemists in Sri Lanka. The Advanced Diploma in Chemistry offered after the successful completion of two years in Graduateship programme is recognized by the Northumbria University in Newcastle-on-Tyne, UK as adequate to proceed to obtain a B Sc Honours Degree in Applied Chemistry. Amongst the other certificate courses and training seminars conducted by the Institute, the Diploma in Laboratory Technology is a regular course of study conducted by the Institute in order to develop the human resources needed for conducting laboratory analytical work and investigations.

This year's graduation is special in celebrating the 25th batch of students as the Silver Jubilee batch passing out with a record output of 52 Graduate students with seven first classes. I wish to thank every person who made it possible for this achievement of providing Graduateship in Chemistry at the Institute. I acknowledge with gratitude the untiring and dedicated efforts of the Dean, academic staff, visiting lecturers, office staff and others. I thank the parents who accepted the credibility of the Institute and placed

confidence in the Institute's ability to guide and develop the professional capabilities of their sons and daughters.

Chemistry as well known is a subject providing the basic knowledge to the sciences occurring in nature such as life sciences, environmental sciences and quality management of industrial products and processes, material sciences and as such branches to a wide spectrum of applications. Therefore, the Graduates in Chemistry will have immense potential in applications and developing their careers.

Amongst the professional development programmes that are conducted by the Institute, the Herbal Technology Certificate course conducted this year attracted many professional chemists who are working in the natural products industry. This provided the knowledge and insight in to the subject and equipped them with skills.

The forthcoming event 'Innovations in Food Science and Healthcare for Social Well-being' is scheduled to be held, to coincide with the Annual Sessions on 'Innovations in Chemical Sciences for Social Well-being'. Eighteen world renowned expert scientists as resource persons will be sharing their knowledge and experiences with the participants, and with twelve other research papers will create a platform for exchange of knowledge. This event will provide an opportunity for our scientists to establish linkages with the overseas scientific community in meeting future challenges in the application of chemical sciences. We welcome active participation of our members in the event.

Finally, I congratulate all the students who are leaving us as new Graduates for what they have achieved and I extend my good wishes in their future endeavours.

COVER PAGE

The cover page of the Silver Jubilee Anniversary issue shows the cover pages of selected previous issues of Chemistry in Sri Lanka. The first issue Volume 1 (No.1) printed in November 1984 is that with the maroon coloured cover page and the last issue printed prior to the current issue *i.e* Volume 24 No. 3 is that in mauve colour. Volume 22 No. 3 shows Adamantane House, the headquarters of the Institute of Chemistry with photographs of late Prof. P P G L Siriwardena, late Ms Clodagh Nethsinghe, Prof. J N O Fernando, late Prof M U S Sultanbawa and late Prof. R S Ramakrishna after whom respectively the auditorium, library, lecture hall, and the two laboratories were named. It also shows the cover pages of Volume 7 No.1, Volume 13 No. 1, Volume 20 No. 1 and Volume 21 No. 2. All these cover pages indicate that with the progress of printing technology, the quality of the printing has improved over the years.